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O R 222020Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1197
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 0974
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPs

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

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Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5055

E.O. 12065 XDS-4 6-21-09 (CASTRO, RAUL) OR-M
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JUNE 21 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4865 (NOTAL)

1. [REDACTED] INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: DENIAL OF JACOBO
TIMERMAN'S HABEAS CORPUS PETITION (BUENOS AIRES 4943) WAS
THE HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT WHICH ATTRACTED MOST PRESS ATTENTION
THIS WEEK. "LA PRENSA" CONTINUES TO STAR- IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE
PRESS FOR ITS HUMAN RIGHTS COVERAGE. A NUMBER OF FAMILIES
FORMERLY IN CONTACT WITH RELATIVES IN "REHABILITATION
PROGRAMS" ARE REPORTED TO HAVE LOST TOUCH. END INTRODUCTION
AND SUMMARY.

2. (U) PERMANENT ASSEMBLY INITIATIVE ON PEN PRISONERS -----
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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N A LETTER DATED JUNE 13, THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY
ORMALLY ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH JUSTICE MINISTER

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ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ VARELA TO DISCUSS "THE SAD SITUATION OF THOSE WHO ARE BEING HELD AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER." THE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONED THE RECENT STATEMENT BY THE JUSTICE MINISTER THAT 2,700 PERSONS ARE BEING HELD AS "SUBVERSIVE DEINQUENTS." THE ASSEMBLY POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THE PERSONS BEING HELD HAVE IN FACT EITHER BEEN TRIED AND CLEARED OF CHARGES OR AFTER INVESTIGATION BY COURTS AND MILITARY TRIBUNALS, THERE WAS FOUND NOT TO BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO CHARGE THEM. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY ARGUED THAT CITIZENS DETAINED UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NEITHER "DELINQUENTS" NOR "SUBVERSIVES" AND SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST DEFINITION OF SUCH DETAINEES IS THAT OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS." THE ASSEMBLY LETTER ALSO CITED ACCUSATIONS OF TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

3. [REDACTED] GOVERNMENT PRESS GUIDANCE ON IACHR VISIT -----
THE EDITOR OF A LEADING ARGENTINE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE RECENTLY SHOWED EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER A MIMEOGRAPHED COPY OF WHAT WAS SAID TO BE THE ARMY'S LATEST DIRECTIVE ON HOW TO HANDLE THE VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT. THE DOCUMENT CONTAINED EIGHT CATEGORIES, SUCH AS "DESAPARECIDOS", THE TIMERMAN CASE, MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, ARGENTINE IMAGE ABROAD, AND THE IACHR VISIT. NEXT TO EACH CATEGORY, AN OBJECTIVE WAS CITED AND IN A THIRD COLUMN THE METHODS TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE WERE STATED. UNDER THIS LATTER CATEGORY WERE STATEMENTS REGARDING HOW MANY ARTICLES PER DAY OR PER WEEK SHOULD APPEAR ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE OR IN NEWS STORIES.

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4. [REDACTED] VIOLA SPEECH REPERCUSSIONS -----
GENERAL VIOLA'S RECENT ARMY DAY SPEECH IN WHICH HE ELLIPTICALLY REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM OF "THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT FOREVER" CONTINUES TO BE PONDERED WITHIN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY AND THOSE FAMILIES WITH DISAPPEARED MEMBERS. IN A SPIRITED CONFRONTATION AT AN EMBASSY OFFICER'S HOME BETWEEN NAVY SECRETARY GENERAL ADMIRAL FRACASSI AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP, FRACASSI AVERRED THAT VIOLA'S STATEMENT WAS "DEFINITIVE" FOR THE THREE SERVICES. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FORCEFULLY DEMANDED DURING THE ENCOUNTER THAT THE MILITARY SERVICES INFORM

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THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE FATE OF THEIR RELATIVES. FRACASSI STATED THAT THE "ABSENT FOREVER" STATEMENT BY GENERAL VIOLA WAS THE "GOVERNMENTS REPLY." DURING THE EXCHANGE, FRACASSI DID NOT ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH THE RECENTLY EXPRESSED POSITIONS OF ADMIRALS MASSERA AND NAVY CINC LAMBRUSCHINI, SUGGESTING THAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS REGARDING THOSE WHO DIED IN CONFRONTATIONS WITH MILITARY FORCES. COMMENT: THE VIOLA "ABSENT FOREVER" STATEMENT WAS SIGNIFICANT AS A PUBLIC INDICATION BY A RANKING ARGENTINE OFFICIAL THAT THE "DESAPARECIDOS" ARE IN FACT DEAD, BUT INSTEAD OF QUITTING THE DISAPPEARED'S FAMILIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, IT HAS LED TO MORE VOCAL AND OUTSPOKEN DEMANDS FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING THE FATE OF THE ABDUCTED. END COMMENT.

5. (U) ANOTHER SCORE FOR "LA PRENSA" -----
ON JUNE 17TH "LA PRENSA" CARRIED A UPI STORY FROM AMDRID IN WHICH SPANISH SUBJECT ESTRELLA IGLESIAS, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS "DISAPPEARED" DURING A YEAR IN ARGENTINE PRISONS, THANKED THE SPANISH KING AND GOVERNMENT FOR ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN HER FREEDOM FROM THE ARGENTINE MILITARY JUNTA. THE STORY STATED THAT MRS. IGLESIAS, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARGENTINA, WAS HELD DURING HER "DIS-

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APPEARANCE" IN THE INFANTRY REGIMENT BASE AT SAN JUSTO IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES AND LATER AT A POLICE STATION IN THE CAPITAL CITY. MRS. IGLESIAS WAS QUOTED IN THE UPIN STORY AS SAYING THAT AMONG THE PERSONS THAT SHE MET DURING HER DETENTION THERE WERE 18 THAT STILL REMAIN ON THE LIST OF THOSE DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HISTORIES SUCH AS THAT REPORTED IN THE UPIN ARE COMMONLY HEARD IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1198
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IN BUENOS AIRES, THE PRENSA'S WIRE SERVICE SOTRY IS THE FIRST TIME WE RECALL THAT SUCH A FIRST-PERSON TESTIMONY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE ARGENTINE SPANISH PRESS. END COMMENT.

6. (U) RESPONSES TO ARTICLE CRITICAL OF CURRENT SECURITY OPERATIONS -----

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ARTICLE OPENLY CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING CLANDESTINE ANTISUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN WRITTEN BY MANFRED SCHONFELD, "LA PRENSA" POLITICAL COLUMNIST, PRESIDENT VIDELA INVITED SCHONFELD AND A NUMBER OF LESS WELL KNOWN JOURNALISTS TO THE CASA ROSADA FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING. THE MEEGIN, WHICH LASTED FOR THREE HOURS, WAS REPORTEDLY A TOUR DE HORIZON OF ARGENTINE POLITICAL LIFE. SCHONFELD TOLD ASSOCIATES LATER THAT THE MEETING RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON THE

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PROBLEMS, BUT DISAGREEMENT ON THE SOLUTIONS. ON JUNE 14, SCHONFELD REPORTED IN HIS COLUMN THAT CRUDELY FAKED "...9,59,349" COMMUNIQUE PRAISING HIS ARTICLE HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY LA PRENSA AND OTHER BUENOS AIRES DAILES. SCHONFELD DESCRIBED THE "COMMUNIQUE" AS "A CRUDE MANEUVER TO DISCREDIT THIS NEWSPAPER AND THIS WRITER" BY MAKING THEM APPEAR TO HAVE THE BACKING OF A TERRORISTS ORGANIZATION," AND NOTED THAT "THERE IS A HAZY HINT OF INTIMIDATION BEHIND THEM."

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7. [REDACTED] XDS-1) NORWEGIAN FUNDING FOR ARGENTINE HROS -----
NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR ARS MET WITH EMBOFF LAST WEEK TO
DISCUSS THE ROLES AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARGENTINE HJMAN
RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (HROS). AT THIS MEETING AMBASSADOR
ARS INDICATED THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO SUGGEST FUNDING
OF ARGENTINE HROS BY PRIVATE NORWEGINA FOUNDATIONS AS
A PRACTICAL AND USEFUL NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE.
THE AMBASSADOR REQUESTED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE CLOSELY
HELD WITHIN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

8. U) PRESS PLAYS TIMERNA AND OTHER CASES -----
ALL PAPERS PUBLISHED THE REJECTION OF A HEABEAS CORPUS
WRIT BY A COURT OF APPEALS, HOLDING THAT HIS CONTINUED
IMPRISONMENT AT HOME IS NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL (SEE BUENOS
AIRES 4943). IN THE FLURRY CREATED BY THE B'NAI B'RITH
DECISION TO GRANT TIMERMAN THE HERBERT HUMPHREY FREEDOM
AWARD, MANFRED SHCONFELD OF LA PRENSA MADE AN ATTEMPT
TO CUT THE TIMERMAN AFFAIR DOWN TO SIZE BY CONTENDING
THAT THERE WAS NO CASE OF "JEW-BAITING", BUT RATHER
THAT TIMERMAN JUST HAPPENED TO BE A JEW WHO WAS INVOLVED
IN THE SHADY BUSINESSES OF TWO OTHER JEWS, DAVID GRAIVER
AND JOSE BER GELBARD. SCHONFELD THIS TIME DID NOT
CRITICIZE THE FACT THAT TIMERMAN CONTINUED UNDER HOUSE

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ARREST AND KEP SILENCE ABOUT THE ORDER FROM THE SUPREME
COURT TO GIVE TIMERMAN BAKC HIS FREEDOM.
MEANWHILE PAPERS REPORTES SENATOR KENNEDY'S MESSAGE
TO THE CEREMONY AT WHIC THE HUMPHREY AWARD WAS
PRESENTED TO TIMERMAN'S SON HECTOR. THE MESSAGE DE-
MANDED INFORMATION FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ABOUT
"THOUSANDS BEING HELD BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OR
WHO HAVE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED " IN ARGENTINA.
SOON AFTER, THE INTERNATION PRESS INSTITUTE--
MEETING IN ATHENS, GREECE--STATED ITS CONCERN OVER THE
FATE OF 55 NEWSPAPERMEN IN ARGENTINA. THE STORY,
PUBLISHED BY CLARIN, SAID THE IPI RESOLUTION MADE
SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE TIMERMAN CASE AND URGED GOA TO
LET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY. CLARIN ALSO REPORTED
THAT HECTOR TIMERMAN HAD SECURED THE SUPPORT OF "AT
LEAST SEVEN PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE US SENATE" IN
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN HIS FATHER'S RELEASE. THE GROUP
INCLUDED SENATORS CHURCH, ZORINSKY, SARBANES, MCGOVERN
AND PELL.

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9. (U) MORE FROM AMNESTY -----

A UP STORY FROM LONDON IN LA PRENSA SAYS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS JUST RELEASED A LIST OF 2,685 PERSONS WHO DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA "SINCE GENERAL VIDELA TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENCY FOLLOWING THE MILITARY COUP IN MARY 1976."

10. (U) LA PRENSA ANNOUNCED JUNE 18 THAT A FOUR YEAR PRISON SENTENCE HAS BEEN HANDED HECTOR OSVALDO FUENTES FOR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL ARMS. THE ARMS WERE DISCOVERED ON APRIL 12, 1978.

11. XDS-4) FAMILIES LOSE CONTACT WITH "TRUSTYS" -----
OFFICIALS OF A NUMBER OF EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL NGOS REPORT THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN PERSONS PURPORTEDLY "UNDERGOIG REHABILITATION" AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE BROKEN
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EARLIER THIS YEAR. THIS EMBASSY IS AWARE OF TWO SUCH CASES WHERE PRIOR TO JANUARY, 1979 THERE WAS REGULAR TELEPHONE CONTACTS AND OCCASIONAL VISITS BETWEEN PERSONS BEING HELD IN CLANDESTINE REHABILITATION CENTERS AND THEIR PARENTS. FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE IN SOME CASES BEEN INFORMED OBLIQUELY THAT THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE GREATER BUENOS AIRES AREA TO THE "THE SOUTH" UNTIL AFTER THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT.
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